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General and complete disarmament: preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources

Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/46 of 5 December 2007, 65/74 of 8 December 2010, 67/51 of 3 December 2012, 69/50 of 2 December 2014 and 71/66 of 5 December 2016,

Recognizing the essential contribution of radioactive sources to social and economic development, and the benefits drawn from their use for all States,

Recognizing also the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evident in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Noting with satisfaction the continued international efforts to strengthen further the security of radioactive sources worldwide,

Mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with their national legal frameworks and international obligations, to maintain effective nuclear safety and security, asserting that responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and noting the important contribution of international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities,

Deeply concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that terrorists may acquire, traffic in or use radioactive sources in radiological dispersion devices,

Deeply concerned also by the potential threat to human health and the environment that would result from the use of such devices by terrorists,

Noting with concern the occurrence of nuclear and radioactive materials that are outside of regulatory control or being trafficked,

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Recalling the importance of international conventions aimed at preventing and suppressing such a risk, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted on 13 April 2005,[1] and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 26 October 1979,[2] as well as its Amendment, adopted on 8 July 2005,[3] which entered into force on 8 May 2016,

Noting that actions of the international community to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related material, notably Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004, 1977 (2011) of 20 April 2011 and 2325 (2016) of 15 December 2016 constitute contributions to the prevention of acts of terrorism using such materials,

Taking note of resolutions GC(62)/RES/6 and GC(62)/RES/7, adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its sixty-second regular session, which address measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety and measures to enhance nuclear security,

Stressing the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting and reinforcing the safety and security of radioactive sources, in particular by establishing technical guidance and supporting States in the improvement of national legal and regulatory infrastructure, and in strengthening coordination and complementarities among various nuclear or radiological security activities,

Noting the organization by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, held in Vienna from 1 to 5 July 2013, the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Maintaining the Continuous Global Control of Sources throughout their Life Cycle, held in Abu Dhabi from 27 to 31 October 2013, and the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions, held in Vienna from 5 to 9 December 2016, as well as the upcoming International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material: The Way Forward for Prevention and Detection, to be held in Vienna from 3 to 7 December 2018,

Noting the utility of the Incident and Trafficking Database as a voluntary mechanism for the international exchange of information on incidents and illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material, encouraging the International Atomic Energy Agency to further facilitate, including through designated points of contact, the timely exchange of information, including through secured electronic access to information contained in the Database, and encouraging also all States to join and participate actively in the Incident and Trafficking Database programme in support of their national efforts to prevent, detect and respond to radioactive and nuclear materials that may have fallen out of regulatory control,

Noting the importance of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management[4] with respect to its provisions on the safety of disused sealed sources,

Highlighting the importance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, of its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and of its supplementary Guidance on the Management of

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1456, No. 24631.

[3] See International Atomic Energy Agency, document GOV/INF/2005/10 GC(49)/INF/6, attachment.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2153, No. 37605.

Disused Radioactive Sources as valuable instruments for enhancing the safety and security of radioactive sources, noting that 137 States members of the International Atomic Energy Agency have made a political commitment to implement the provisions of the Code and 114 States have made a similar commitment to the supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, while recognizing that they are not legally binding,

Noting that a number of States have not yet become parties to the pertinent international instruments,

Taking note of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2018–2021 of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and encouraging Member States to make voluntary contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Fund,

Welcoming the fact that Member States have taken multilateral actions to address the security of radioactive sources, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 72/5 of 10 November 2017,

Noting the various international efforts and partnerships to enhance nuclear and radiological security, encouraging further efforts to secure radioactive sources, and noting also in this respect guidance and recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency with regard to safe and secure management of radioactive sources,

Taking note of the findings of the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources of 2013, which, inter alia, call for further assessment of the merits of developing an international convention on the safety and security of radioactive sources so that Member States can make the best-informed decisions on the matter,

Noting that the Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) works with nations to strengthen capabilities to counter radioactive source smuggling and prevent terrorists from acquiring such materials, and that INTERPOL Operation Fail Safe promotes the sharing of sensitive law-enforcement information on known nuclear smugglers,

Welcoming the ongoing individual and collective efforts of Member States to take into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the lack or insufficiency of control over radioactive sources, and recognizing the need for States to take more effective measures to strengthen those controls in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law,

Mindful of the urgent need to address, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this rising concern for international security,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to support international efforts to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive sources and, if necessary, suppress such acts, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;

2. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to become party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism[1] as soon as possible, in accordance with their legal and constitutional processes;

3. *Invites* Member States, in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency and in accordance with its statute, to consider the merits of conducting an evaluation of the existing international framework applicable to the security of radioactive sources and, if necessary, to explore possible options for its potential strengthening;

4. *Urges* Member States to take and strengthen national measures and capabilities, as appropriate, to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of

radioactive sources as well as terrorist attacks on nuclear plants and facilities which would result in radioactive releases, and, if necessary, to suppress such acts, in particular by taking effective measures to account for, control, secure and physically protect such facilities, materials and sources in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with their international obligations;

5. *Encourages* Member States to enhance their national capacities with appropriate means of detection and related architecture or systems, including through international cooperation and assistance in conformity with international law and regulations, with a view to preventing, detecting and responding to illicit trafficking in radioactive sources;

6. *Invites* Member States, in particular those producing and distributing radioactive sources, to support and endorse the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources, as described in General Conference resolutions GC(62)/RES/6 and GC(62)/RES/7 and to enhance the security of radioactive sources, as described in the Nuclear Security Plan for 2018–2021;

7. *Urges* all States to work towards following the guidance contained in the non-legally binding International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, including, as appropriate, the supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and the supplementary Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources, and encourages Member States to notify the Director General of the Agency of their intention to do so pursuant to General Conference resolutions GC(62)/RES/6 and GC(62)/RES/7;

8. *Encourages* Member States to work with the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the non-legally binding international framework for the security of radioactive sources, especially on the safe and secure management of disused radioactive sources, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Agency, in particular with resolutions GC(62)/RES/6 and GC(62)/RES/7;

9. *Recognizes* the value of information exchange on national approaches to controlling radioactive sources, and takes note of the endorsement by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency of a proposal for a formalized process for a voluntary periodic exchange on information and lessons learned and for the evaluation of progress made by States towards implementing the provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;

10. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in its resolution 61/RES/8 adopted at its sixty-first session;

11. *Encourages* Member States to participate, on a voluntary basis, in the Incident and Trafficking Database programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Member States, including through international cooperation under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to search for, locate, recover and secure lost or orphaned radioactive sources within their State jurisdiction or territory, encourages continued efforts in this way, and also encourages cooperation among and between Member States and through relevant international and, where appropriate, regional organizations aimed at strengthening national capacities in this regard;

13. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national laws, policies and priorities, to provide support for scientific research to develop

technically and economically appropriate technologies with the capability to further improve the security of radioactive sources or reduce the risk of acquisition by terrorists and of malicious use of radioactive sources, including by, on a voluntary basis and when technically feasible and economically realistic, developing technologies that do not rely on high-activity radioactive sources and developing exchanges on alternative technologies, without unduly hindering the beneficial uses of radioactive sources;

14. *Invites* all Member States to participate, on a voluntary basis, in the annual meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Stakeholder States involved with Alternative Technologies to High-Activity Radioactive Sources;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources".